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**Alexandria Will Not Take Increased Taxes on Businesses Lying Down:
*The Proof is in the Petition***

(ALEXANDRIA, VA) – More than 165 citizens and business owners have signed an Alexandria Taxpayers United (ATU) petition against an increase in business property taxes. The petition was created in response to a decision from the Alexandria City Council in December 2007 to modify to the City's tax code and allow for varying rates between commercial property and residential property.

Bud Miller, ATU President, commented, "Residents and retailers alike have every right to be upset. By going through with this change in the code, the City has practically guaranteed tax hikes in the future." Miller continued, "ATU wants to help create a prosperous local business climate, and the only way we can do that is to rally the support of the community and speak out against these unfair tax hikes; King Street and Del Ray small business owners should be outraged. Our petition shows a widely diverse group of people feel strongly opposed to this tax increase."

Previously, Virginia law required that commercial and residential property be taxed at the same rate. The same 2007 state law that created the abusive driver fees also allows some Northern Virginia jurisdictions to collect an additional tax of 25 cents per \$100 of value assessed on Alexandria business property. If fully adopted, this tax would equal a 30 percent tax hike on existing levies. ATU feels that although transportation should be prioritized, using existing tax revenues more wisely – not increasing taxes on businesses – is the best way to improve transportation conditions in Alexandria.

The petition can be viewed and signed at: <http://www.petitiononline.com/proptaxs/petition.html>.

Alexandria Taxpayers United is a non-profit, non-partisan, volunteer organization dedicated to educating taxpayers, the media, and elected officials on the merits of low taxes, fiscal responsibility, and government accountability. More information is available at www.atuonline.org

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